

REMARKS

Applicant has amended page 10 of the disclosure as requested by the Examiner. No other amendments are submitted at this time. Accordingly, Claims 1-22 currently stand in the present application. Claim 1 is the sole independent claim

In Paper Number 6, the Examiner rejects Claims 1-22 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) purportedly as being anticipated by United States patent 5,985,457 [Clifford]. This rejection is traversed. Reconsideration is requested in light of the following remarks.

To substantiate the rejection, the Examiner states Clifford discloses that it is known to form a non-planar laminate (e.g., in the production of vehicle bodies, appliances, etc). The Examiner then states that Clifford teaches all of the essential limitations of the claims in the present application. This is clearly wrong.

Clifford does not teach each and every step set out in claim 1 of the present application. For example, the final step in claim 1 recites "applying uniform pressure to set stack with said die press for sufficient time to bond together said skins and said paper layer while in the same operation forming a non-planar part from said stack". This step, particularly the emphasized portion, is nowhere to be found in Clifford.

The Examiner is requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b).

In Paper Number 6, the Examiner rejects Claims 1-22 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being purportedly unpatentable over Clifford in view of United States patent

3,340,714 [Pohl et al. (Pohl)]. This rejection is traversed. Reconsideration is requested in light of the following remarks.

The Examiner appears to rely on Pohl for the teaching of a process wherein a three layer laminate is formed and the layup so formed is subjected to conditions such that lamination or bonding and simultaneous shaping is effected. The Examiner appears to rely on Pohl in the event that Clifford is found to be deficient in teaching the process defined by claim 1.

As stated above, the final step in claim 1 of the present process involves applying uniform pressure to a stack comprising a paper layer interposed between a pair of sheet metal skins with a die press for sufficient time to bond together the skins and the paper layer while in the same operation forming a non-planar part from the stack. A process employing such a step is neither taught nor suggested by Pohl.

Specifically, Pohl discloses placing a laminate in a die press and clamping the laminate during deformation thereof – see column 2, lines 14-15 and lines 23-27. This is a critical step in Pohl since the clamped portion of the laminate is relatively cool whereas the inner portion of the laminate which is being deformed is heated allowing the core of the laminate to soften and be transformed into a viscous mass – see column 2, lines 20-23. Accordingly, it is clear that Pohl does not apply a uniform pressure to the stack. Rather, Pohl applies a clamping pressure which holds the edges of the laminate in place during the deformation process. Fundamentally, this requires the use of non-uniform pressure at the

periphery of the laminate compared to the portion of the laminate being deformed. Further, this is a required element of the process taught by Pohl.

In contrast, the present process involves application of a uniform pressure to the stack with the die press for a sufficient time to bond together the sheet metal skins and the paper layer while concurrently forming a non-planar part from the stack. Application of such a uniform pressure allows formation of shaped part which is well bonded substantially along its entire surface.

With further reference to Pohl, Applicant wishes to point out that the laminate which is used in the die press of Pohl is a pre-fabricated laminate. In other words, Pohl does not teach or suggest the use of the stack recited in claim 1 of the present application. This is clear since Pohl purports to produce a shaped product which will be resistant to delamination. Since the periphery of the laminate in the Pohl process is maintained at 60°F, the laminate must be pre-fabricated or the resulting product will not be bonded at its periphery which would be counterproductive to the object of Pohl.

Even if Clifford and Pohl could be combined as proposed by the Examiner the combination teaches away from the process currently claimed in the present application. Specifically, following the teachings of Pohl, one would produce the Clifford laminate as a pre-fabricated blank and inserted into the Pohl die press to produce a resulting product. Applicant has discovered that the use of uniform pressure along the surface of the stack recited in claim 1 of the present application

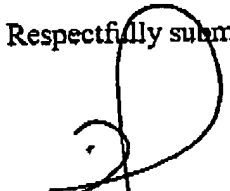
is important to achieve a high quality product particularly one in which the core is a paper layer core.

In light of the foregoing comments, Applicant respectfully submits that the present application, as defined by claim 1 currently on file, distinguishes patentably over Clifford in view of Pohl. The Examiner is requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a).

In light of the above, reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully requested.

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Respectfully submitted,



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